National Policy on Education, sports and physical education were to be an integral part of education. The Conference recognised the need of broad-basing participation in sports and in extending the youth programmes more fully to the rural areas. It was felt that traditional games. sports and martial arts needed to be given due importance and that at the same time attention was required to be paid to the raising of sports standards also. It highlighted the need for paying attention to the need of women and tribals in the field of sports and youth programmes. The Conference agreed that the coverage of sports events by national media should be extended to the district level and more suitable hours alloted for such coverage. The Conference was unanimous that existing playfields had to be protected for sports purposes. There was a general feeling that inculcation of discipline if necesesary through legislation among national sports federations and states sports associations was necessary and concerned effort in this direction by the Centre, the States and the federations was required. There was a consensus that bringing sports on the concurrent list wou'd help achieve the desired result. Finally, the Conference recognised the value of exchange of idea through such conferences.

Deaths due to Sickle Cell Disease

886. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent research a disease known as "sickle cell disease" has spread in a number of states in the country killing thousands of persons; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the States affeced by the disease, the number of persons reported to have died as a result thereof and the measures taken by Government to control the spread of the disease and for effective treatment of the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Sickle cell disease is a public health problem, generally affecting the trible population. Limited surveys of different tribal groups have indicated frequencies of positive sicking between 2 per cent and 35 per cent in the areas surveyed. The disease has been noticed among some castes in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and the neighbouring regions.

The straegy to control basically consists of early diagnosis and proper treatment which is being attended to by the concerned State Governments.

Victimisation of Officials responsible for delay in commissioning of Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal

887. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain new facts have come to light regarding the delay in the Commissioning of the Indira Gandhi International Airport and it has been found that innocent officers have been victimised and made scapegoats for the lapses for which they were not responsible; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Innocent officers have not been victimised or made scape-goats for the delay